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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

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R6 EX1

Exploratory Study of
Farmers' Attitudes
toward
Administration of AAA



Preliminary Report

(FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY)

July 11, 1940

Division of Program Surveys

Question: What changes and/or improvements in the administration of the farm programs would you like to see most?

Sample: This study was an exploratory one and so covered only 165 farmers in 13 states between mid-February and the end of March. 1/

Summary of Results

1. What proportion of farmers would like to see changes made in the administration of the AAA?

	% of Farmers
Program satisfactory	14%
Don't know	13
Suggest changes	<u>73</u>
	100%
 Total replies	 165

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1. Ill., Iowa, Mo., Va., Tenn., Ala., Miss., Kan., Okla., Col., Wisc., Minn., Conn.

2. What kinds of changes are suggested? 2/

The 120 farmers suggesting changes in AAA administration made a total of 173 such suggestions.

	% of Mentions
Increased emphasis on soil conservation in AAA	43
Changes in bases of determining allotments and payments	29
Changes to improve local administration	9
Other suggestions relating to production control or allotments	9
Reduce cost of crop insurance (wheat)	4
Penalize landlords for requiring tenants to turn over AAA payments in order to get land	3
Provide loans on feed crops	2
	<u>100%</u>
Total Mentions	173

3. Specific suggestions made

a. Suggestions relating to increased emphasis on soil conservation

Require everybody to do some soil building---
compulsory soil conservation program

Require everybody to do a specified minimum
amount of soil building before getting any
AAA payments at all

Make landlords perform all possible soil conservation practices

Increase grants-in-aid

Increase the proportion of payments for soil
conserving practices and decrease the
emphasis on parity and special crop payments

Encourage more hay and pasture

Encourage more use of fertilizer and lime

Encourage more tree planting

Pay for soy beans even if used as grain

Give small farmer additional payments for
soil conservation work

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2. Although many of the changes suggested refer to parts of the AAA program other than its administration, their inclusion by farmers in answer to our question indicates that such demarcation may not be entirely clear to them.

b. Suggestions regarding the bases for determining allotments and payments

Redistribute allotments to favor small farmers
Graduate payments to favor small farmers
Minimum allotments should be set to assure
small farmers of a workable minimum---also
minimum payments should be set in interests
of small farmers
Maximum payment limit should be set
Allotments should be determined according to
farmers' needs

Base allotments on a percentage of the crop
land operated
Base allotments on a proportion of the size
of farm operated
Combine corn and wheat allotments, particularly
on small farms
Eliminate or reduce special crop allotments and
substitute increased general depleting allot-
ments
Cut allotments and payments in the areas where
the greatest proportion of the surplus is
produced
Give a larger proportionate allotment to the
farmer who grows his own feed crops

c. Other suggestions relating to production control

Cut production until prices are good
Extend production control to other com-
modities, particularly hogs and dairy
Organize compulsory production control
(marketing quotas) for corn

d. Suggestions relating to local administration

Allotments should be more fairly apportioned
Local administrative costs should be reduced
Local committees should be replaced with well-
trained men
Local committees should prevent landlords from
getting their tenant's share of benefit pay-
ments 3/

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3. A similar suggestion, mentioned by a different group of farmers, is listed on page 2 (Question 2). The difference between these two kinds of comments lies in the fact that those presented earlier seemed to think that the National administration rather than local administration was responsible for the practice.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The first chapter of the history of the United States of America is the story of the discovery of the continent by Christopher Columbus in 1492. This event marked the beginning of European settlement in North America and the start of the process of colonization.

The second chapter of the history of the United States of America is the story of the early years of settlement. This period saw the growth of the colonies and the development of a distinct American identity. The colonies began to assert their independence from Britain, leading to the American Revolution.

The third chapter of the history of the United States of America is the story of the American Revolution. This period saw the colonies fight for their independence from Britain, resulting in the creation of the United States of America in 1776.

The fourth chapter of the history of the United States of America is the story of the early years of the new nation. This period saw the establishment of the federal government and the development of the country's political and social structure. The United States began to expand its territory and influence across the continent.

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